

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 NIC-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 NEA-10 LAB-06

OPR-02 SY-10 ACDA-19 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /149 W

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O R 102146Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5159

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, MILI, PINS, ELAB

SUBJECT: REACTION TO NEW CABINET

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: SANTIGO 3549

1. SUMMARY. INITIAL REACTION TO MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN NEW CABINET (REFTEL) WAS ALONG EXPECTED LINES, BUT MOST GROUPS ARE STILL AWAITING CLEARER DEFINITION OF REAL ROLE OF ARMED FORCES. CUT RALLY AUG 9 UNEVENTFUL. EXCEPT FOR CONTINUING BUS AND TRUCK STRIKES, MOST OTHER GUILDS BACK TO WORK TODAY AND STORES ARE OPEN. END SUMMARY.

2. INITIAL REACTION TO NEW CABINET ALONG GENERALLY EXPECTED LINES. SOCIALIST SPOKESMAN SEN ERICH SCHNAKE GAVE LUKEWARM ENDORSEMENT TO MILITARY PARTICIPATION, NOTING RESHUFFLE DOES NOT MEAN RETROGRESSION BUT RATHER CONSOLIDATION. DEFENDING CABINET IN SPEECH AT CUT RALLY (BELOW), ROLANDO CALDERON ARGUED CABINET WILL RECEIVE WORKING CLASS SUPPORT TO EXTENT IT RESPECTS

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UP PROGRAM AND ACTS AGAINST "FASCISTS." COMMUNIST SECGEN

SEN LUIS CORVALAN STRESSED NEED FOR STRONG CABINET TO STOP TERRORIST ATTEMPTS. GARRETON ACTION OF MAPU ISSUED SHARP STATEMENT ADAMANTLY OPPOSING MILITARY IN CABINET AS "UNACCEPTABLE CONCILIATION." NATIONAL PARTY, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (EX-PIR), AND DEMOCRATIC RADICALS ALL ISSUED STATEMENTS EXPRESSING SHOCK AND OUTRAGE THAT ARMED FORCES WERE LETTING THEMSELVES BE USED AGAIN BY MARXIST GOVT. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT SPOKESMAN DEP EDUARDO CERDA TERMED CABINET "A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD" BUT ADDED THAT MANY ADDITIONAL STEPS REMAIN TO BE TAKEN. PDC SEN RENAN FUENTEALBA DESCRIBED NEW CABINET AS "POSITIVE" AND HOPEFUL." PDC SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED OFFICIAL STATEMENT NOTING NEW CABINET, AS SUCH, DID NOT PROVIDE NECESSARY GUARANTEES TO REESTABLISH ORDER AND THAT SUBSEQUENT POLICY DECISIONS WILL BE DECIDING FACTOR. FORM THE UNDERGROUND, PATRIA Y LIBERTAD ANNOUNCED IT IS SUSPENDING TERRORIST ACTIONS AND DEMANDED CLEAR STATEMENT OF MILITARY INTENTIONS.

3. NEXT RANKING OFFICERS IN ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE BECAME ACTING CINCS. THEY ARE, RESPECTIVELY, GEN AUGUSTO PINOCHET UGARTE, ADM JOSE TORIBIO MERINO CASTRO, AND GEN GUSTAVO LEIGH GUZMAN. NO NEW APPOINTMENTS TO SECONDARY GOVT POSTS YET ANNOUNCED.

4. CUT RALLY LATE AFTERNOON AUG 9 WAS TRANQUIL. CROWD OF SOME 40-50,000 HEARD CUT PRES LUIS FIGUEROA DENOUNCE GUILD STRIKES AS PART OF "FASCIST GOLPE PLAN" WHICH MUST BE STOPPED, AND CUT SEC GEN ROLANDO CALDERON CALL FOR GREATER INTEGRATION OF INDUSTRIAL BELTS (CORDONES) WITH CUT. ALLENDE DID NOT APPEAR. AT LEAST TWO EXTREME LEFT GROUPS, GARRETON'S MAPU AND REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY (PCR), PASSED OUT PAMPHLETS DENOUNCING MILITARY ARMS RAIDS AND DEMANDING MORE AUTHORITY FOR "PEOPLES' POWER" GROUPS. SMALLER CUT RALLIES WERE HELD IN MANY PROVINCIAL CAPITALS.

5. AS EXPECTED, OPPOSITION-ORIENTED MERCHANTS CLOSED AT MID-DAY AND SEVERAL PROFESSIONAL GROUPS, NOTABLY DOCTORS AND DENTISTS, STAGED ALL-DAY WORK STOPPAGE. STORES AND PROFESSIONALS ARE BACK TO WORK TODAY. BUS STRIKE SOMEWHAT MORE INTENSE, HOWEVER, AS DRIVERS CONTINUED TO COMPLAIN ABOUT LACK OF SECURITY AND INTENSIFIED GASOLINE SHORTAGES. GOVT BUS CZAR GEN HERNAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BRADY ANNOUNCED ADDITIONAL POLICE PROTECTION FOR OPERATING BUSES WILL BE PROVIDED. TRUCKERS' STRIKE CONTINUES UNABATED, AND NEW MININTERIOR LETELIER ANNOUNCED GOVT WILL REFUSE ANY TALKS WITH TRUCKERS UNTIL THEY RESUME WORK.

6 ON SUBVERSION/TERRORISM FRONT, NAVY ANNOUNCED IT HAD DETECTED ADDITIONAL EXTREME LEFT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES CENTERED AT ASMAR NAVAL SHIPYARD IN TALCAHUANO, AND OPPOSITION PRESS

REPORTS THE DISCOVERY OF ANOTHER SUBVERSIVE GROUP AT THE NAVY ENGINEERING SCHOOL IN VINA DEL MAR (USDAO SANTIAGO 520 DTG 102100Z AUG 73) POLICE ARRESTED EIGHT MEMBERS OF ALLEGEDLY RIGHTIST TERROR GROUP IN VINA DEL MAR; GROUP WAS ARMED AND HAS REPORTEDLY ADMITTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR VARIOUS EXPLOSIONS IN VALPARAISO AREA. SCATTERED DYNAMITE EXPLOSIONS AND OTHER INCIDENTS CONTINUED. IN PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CABINET, RADICAL PARTY PRES SEN ANSELMA SULE CALLED FOR IMPOSITION OF STATE OF SEIGE, A MOVE WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY CONGRESS, IN VIEW OF TERRORIST SITUATION. SULE ALSO ENDORSED AMENDMENT OF ARMS CONTROL LAW.

7. COMMENT: IMPORT OF MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN CABINET HAS NOT YET BEEN DIGESTED BY KEY GROUPS ON POLITICAL SCENE, MOST OF WHOM ARE AWAITING CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT ROLE ARMED FORCES WILL HAVE IN GOVT AND HOW MUCH REAL POWER THEY WILL EXERCISE. EMBASSY SOURCE TOLD US ALLENDE, WITH HELP OF PS SEN ANICETO RODRIGUEZ, WAS WORKING UP TO LAST MINUTE TO RETAIN FORMER MININTERIOR CARLOS BRIONES IN CABINET, BUT THAT ADAMANT OPPOSITION FROM ALTAMIRANO FACTION FINALLY PREVAILED. OTHER SOURCE, CLOSE TO PS, TOLD US POSSIBILITY OF PS SPLIT IS CLOSER TO REALITY NOW THAN BEFORE, BUT EVEN SO HE DECLINED TO PREDICT SUCH A SPLIT WOULD ACTUALLY OCCUR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, POLITICAL STABILITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTIA03566
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730845/aaaabguf.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANTIGO 3549
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO NEW CABINET USCINCSO FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINT, MILI, PINS, ELAB, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005